


## BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION

<p>Primary Applicant (Name and Address):</p> <p style="color: blue;">Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company 121 N. Washington St Cuba City, WI 53807</p>	<p>Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, <a href="http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/my_menu.aspx">http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/my_menu.aspx</a>. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions.</p> <p>Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: <b>March 17, 2022</b> at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. <b>Late applications will not be accepted.</b></p>
	<p>Contact for further information: <a href="mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov">PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov</a></p>
	<p>Date: December 1, 2021</p>
<p>The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.</p>	
<p><b>Applicant Certification:</b> In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.</p>	
<p>Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)    <span style="color: blue;">Donn Wilmott</span></p>	<p>Title <span style="color: blue;">General Manager</span></p>
	<p>Phone <span style="color: blue;">563-499-5717</span></p>
<p>Signature of Authorized Representative</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p>Date <span style="color: blue;">3/15/2022</span></p>

## SUMMARY OF GRANT APPLICATION

<b>Primary Applicant Name</b> Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company	<b>Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar)</b> \$7,955,000
<b>Federal Employer Identification No.</b> 39-0151630	<b>Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar)</b> \$7,955,000
<b>Contact Name and Title</b> Donn Wilmott General Manager	<b>Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar)</b> \$15,910,000
<b>Telephone Number</b> 563-499-5717	<b>Project Name</b> Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan
<b>E-mail Address(es)</b> donn@cstech.com	<b>Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.)</b> FTTP
<b>Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant</b> Not applicable	<b>Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other)</b> Last-Mile
<b>Grant Manager Contact Name</b> Not applicable	<b>Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number</b> Not applicable
<b>If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations</b>  Not applicable	
<b>Brief Project Description (2 sentences)</b> Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company (CCTEC) proposes to build a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network infrastructure into the rural communities of Seymour, Benton, Hazel Green, Strawbridge, Fairplay, Prairie Corners, and Sinsinawa in rural Lafayette and Grant Counties in southwest Wisconsin. The proposed project will reach 1,721 locations including 1,324 households, 280 farms including 117 businesses including 4 community anchor institutions.	
<b>Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed</b>  1000 Mbps	<b>Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed</b>  1000 Mbps

Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location 100 Mbps	Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location 10 Mbps
County or Counties served by this project Grant, Lafayette	Community or Communities served by this project Seymour, Benton, Hazel Green, Strawbridge, Fairplay, Prairie Corners, Sinsinawa
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve T-Mobile, HughesNet, ViaSat, Comelec Services, Charter, MediaCom, Jo-Carroll Energy, Lumen Technologies, Hilbert Communications	
Does proposed project serve an <u>unserved</u> area of the State, as defined in <a href="#">Section 1.4</a> of the application instruction? (yes/no)  Yes	Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no) Yes, Lafayette County is certified as both a Broadband Forward! And Telecommuter Forward! Community.
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). 117	For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access). 1,604 (280 agricultural; 1,324 residential)
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are <i>unserved</i> ? 0	Of the improved residential locations, how many are <i>unserved</i> ? 8
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) Yes, where the CCTEC has ETC status.	Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no) Yes, Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Yes	Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no) No
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) No, CCTEC did not participate in this collection in 2021; however, our manager retired and our new management has committed to participate in any future collections.	

## Summary of Project Budget and Funding Statement

### FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application Budget & Income Summary



Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

#### Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Cuba City Telephone Exchange	Cuba City / Belmont Broadband Fiber to the Premise Project

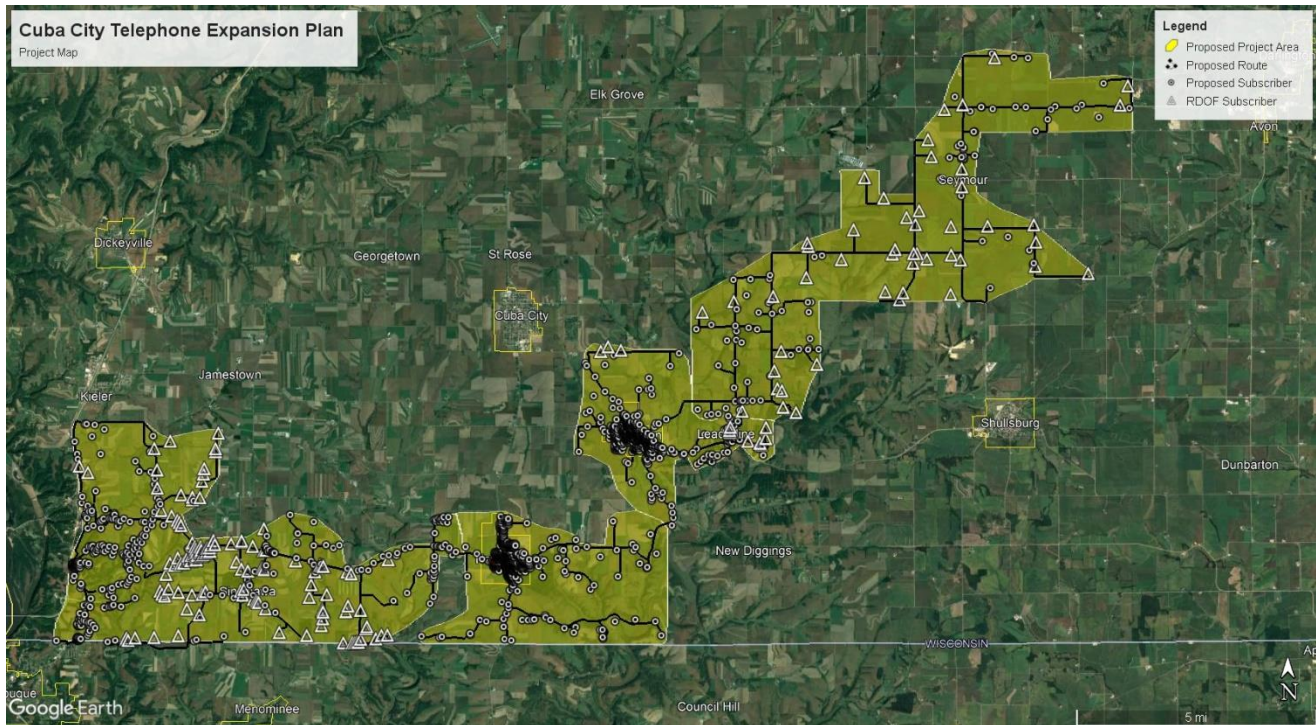
#### Budget

Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Contractual, Consultant Fees	\$ 1,010,500.00	\$ 1,010,500.00	\$ 2,021,000.00
2	Equipment (FTTP Electronics)	\$ 724,500.00	\$ 724,500.00	\$ 1,449,000.00
3	Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4	Labor (Salary, Fringe, Contractor Furnished Material)	\$ 6,220,000.00	\$ 6,220,000.00	\$ 12,440,000.00
5	Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
7	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total:		\$ 7,955,000.00	\$ 7,955,000.00	\$ 15,910,000.00
				50.0% match requested

#### Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Cuba City Telephone Exchange	Applicant	Cash	\$ 7,955,000.00
2	Village of Benton	Other	In-Kind	Permitting fees waived
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
Total:				\$ 7,955,000.00

## Project Map(s)



### 3.2.1 Applicant Identification and Contact Information

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A) Address and Name: Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company  
121 N. Washington St  
Cuba City, WI 53807

Contact: Donn Wilmott  
Phone: 563-499-5717  
Email: donn@cstech.com

B) Does the application propose a public-private partnership?

Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company, Inc. is not partnering with any entities for the proposed project.

CCTEC has received a letter of support from the Village of Benton with a commitment to waive any of the permitting fees for the use of utility right of ways.

C) Legal Entity Information:

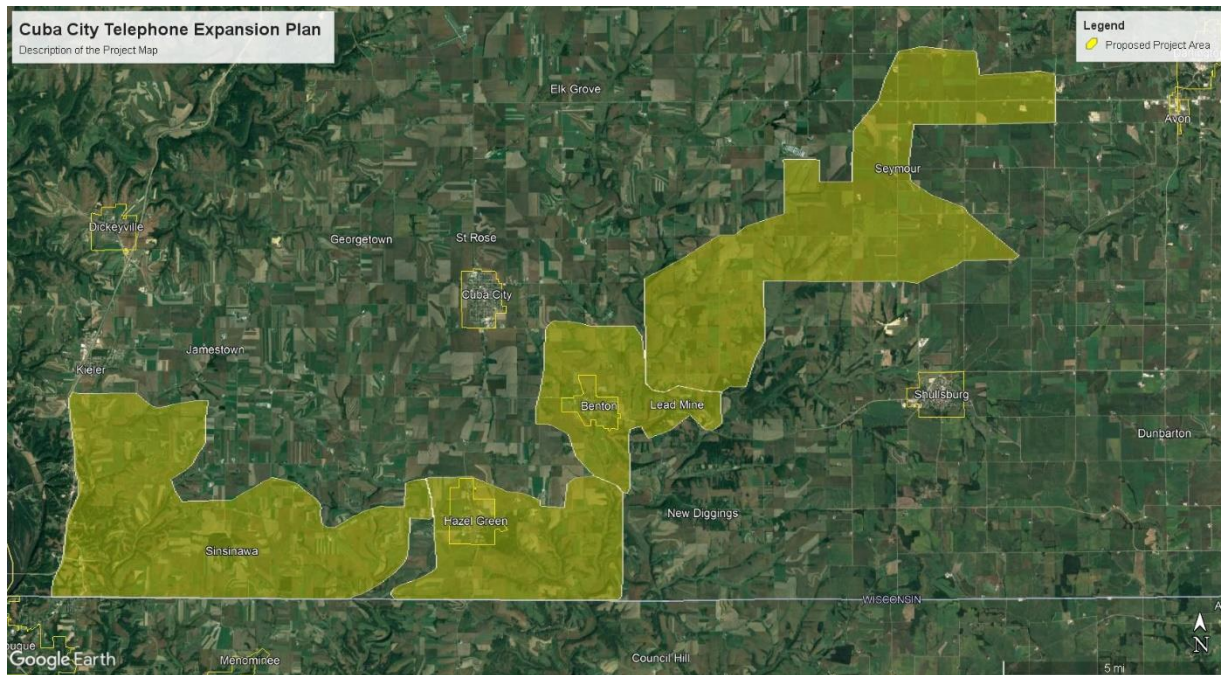
Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company, Inc. (CCTEC) is a rural, Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) and a current eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) headquartered at 121 N. Washington St., Cuba City, WI. CCTEC is a wholly owned subsidiary of LICT Corporation.

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### 3.2.2 Description of the Project

A) The following map shows the proposed funded service area in yellow shading. The map has been emailed to: [pscbroadbanddata@wisconsin.gov](mailto:pscbroadbanddata@wisconsin.gov).



B) Based on the Public Service Commission's Wisconsin Broadband map, the proposed funded service area includes served, unserved, and underserved locations. However, based on research performed by CCTEC, all locations included are either unserved or underserved based on the definitions of unserved and underserved for the program.

C) CCTEC has included a breakdown of locations in the table below. CCTEC does not anticipate more than a few possible seasonal residents within the grant area.

	Total Locations	Estimated Subscribers	Unserved Locations	Underserved Locations
Households	1324	927	3	1321
Businesses	117	82	0	117
Agricultural	280	196	5	275

Upon project completion, the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will provide broadband service for residents at the speeds and pricing tiers listed in the table below:

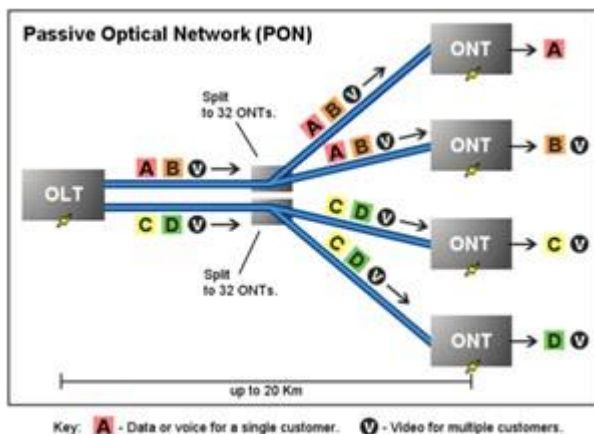
Package	Monthly Rate
100 Mbps/10 Mbps	\$49
250 Mbps/25 Mbps	\$69
1 GB/100 Mbps	\$89

D) The proposed project includes last mile FTTP infrastructure including outside plant FTTP electronics.

E) The proposed Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will provide up to 1 Gbps symmetrical broadband speeds. CCTEC plans to construct buried fiber optic cable to the eligible locations using the combination of a “home-run” (or dedicated fiber) design and a centralized splitter design. The “home-run” architecture dedicates fiber from the FTTP optical line terminal (OLT) electronics to the customer premises. CTEC will use both plow and boring techniques to bury the fiber. Common fiber cable sizes that will be used for the fiber build will be 288, 144, 96, 72, 48, 24, and 12 fibers.

CTEC intends to utilize Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) as its FTTP technology. GPON is a FTTP technology that uses point-to-multipoint electronics to serve residential and business locations. With the CTEC FTTP design, GPON technology can serve up to 32 customer locations with a single optical line terminal port.

Per the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the G.984.1 industry standard for GPON technology provides speeds greater than or equal to 1,200 Mbps upstream and 2,400 Mbps downstream for each OLT port. This speed is then shared amongst locations. The number of locations sharing this bandwidth is determined by the GPON split ratio. This technology utilizes fiber optic splitters to enable 32 or more customer locations to be served by a single OLT port. Cuba City intends to utilize a 1:32 split ratio. With a FTTP build all subscribers within the service area can receive the same data rates and the same grade of service no matter their distance from the FTTP access electronics. The limitation of the bandwidth available to the end user is limited by the electronics that are used to light the fiber. The figure below shows the architecture of a GPON network utilizing a 1:32 split ratio.





The bandwidth on each OLT port is shared with the customers that are assigned to a common fiber splitter. An OLT can be oversubscribed for both upstream and downstream traffic. The oversubscription ratio is dependent on the quantity of customers assigned to the fiber splitter, as well as the bandwidth provisioned to each subscriber. Below is an example of how the bandwidth is shared utilizing the typical 1:32 fiber splitter. Since Internet traffic is bursty in nature, it is uncommon that all 32 subscribers would be utilizing all their bandwidth at the same time. The example below assumes the worst-case scenario of all 32 customers utilizing their full bandwidth.

**Upstream**  $37.5 \text{ Mbit/customer} = (1,200 \text{ Mbps})/(32 \text{ customers})$

**Downstream**  $75 \text{ Mbit/customer} = (2,400 \text{ Mbit/s})/(32 \text{ customers})$

If we assume that all 32 customers on one OLT port are subscribed to a symmetrical 100 Mbps data profile the following oversubscription ratios could be achieved. These oversubscription ratios are common for the broadband industry.

**Upstream**  $2.66 \text{ oversubscription} = ((32 \text{ customers} \times 100 \text{ Mbit/s})/(1,200 \text{ Mbit/s}))$

**Downstream**  $1.33 \text{ oversubscription} = ((32 \text{ customers} \times 100 \text{ Mbit/s})/(2,400 \text{ Mbit/s}))$

The other location in the network where oversubscription can happen is on the uplinks to the carrier's Internet connection from the FTTP shelf. Uplinks typically connect to an Ethernet router that eventually forwards the traffic out to the Internet. Figure 1 shows the location of the FTTP uplinks and the Router uplinks where oversubscription can occur.

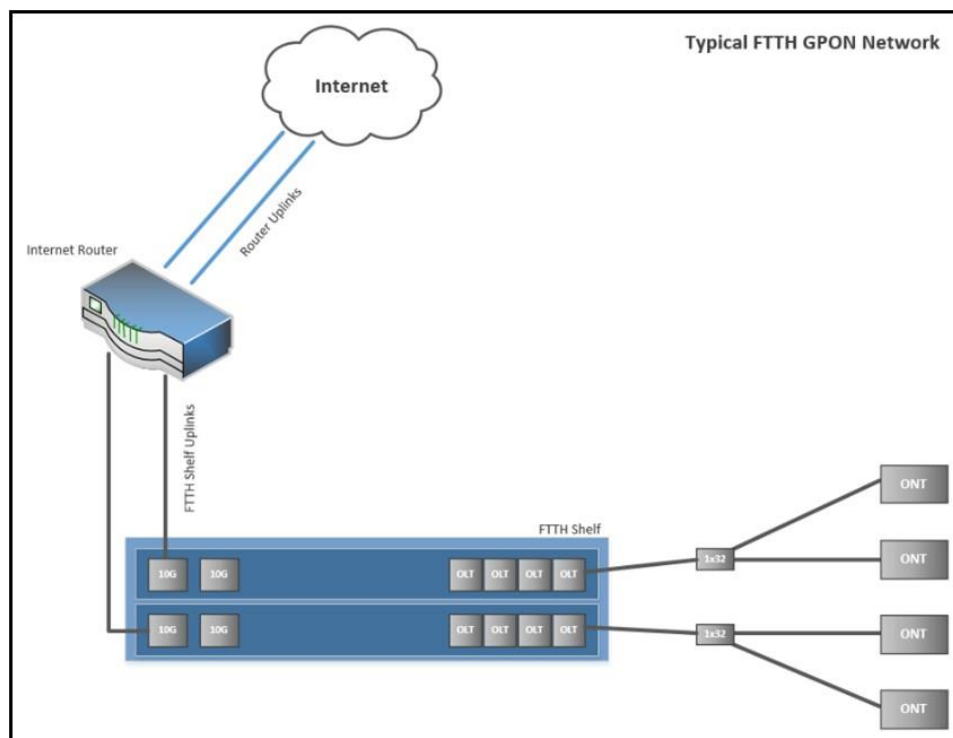
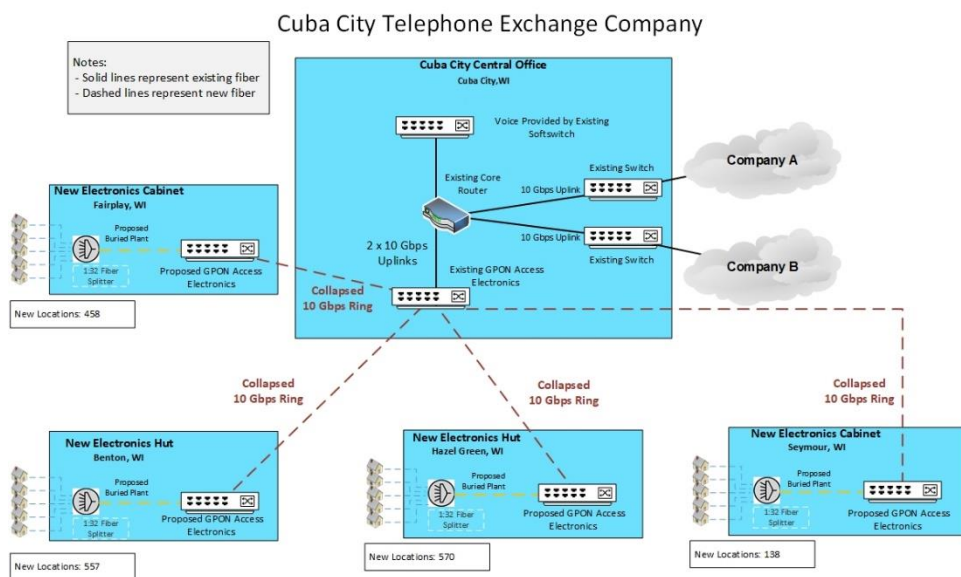


Figure 2 shows a generic FTTP shelf with eight OLT ports and two 10,000 Mbps (20,000 Mbps total) uplink ports. Below are the oversubscription calculations for the FTTP shelf uplinks with the assumption that the FTTP shelf is fully loaded with customers on all eight OLT ports (1:32 fiber splitters).

$$\begin{aligned}
 &(8 \text{ OLT ports}) \times (32 \text{ customers}) = 256 \text{ subscribers} \\
 &(256 \text{ subscribers}) \times (100 \text{ Mbit/s bandwidth}) = 25.6 \text{ Gbit/s} \\
 &1.28 \text{ oversubscription} = (25.6 \text{ Gbit/s bandwidth}) / (20 \text{ Gbit/s uplink})
 \end{aligned}$$

In the examples that are provided in this document, the OLT upstream (2.666) and downstream (1.33) ports have an oversubscription level greater than the FTTP shelf uplinks (1.28). From an engineering standpoint, these oversubscriptions are very low and are not a cause of concern. Engineers typically design FTTP networks for oversubscription levels that are between 30:1 and 50:1 on uplink ports. It should also be noted that permissible oversubscription rates typically increase as the average bandwidth packages sold to each customer increases. This is due to the fact that customers rarely use their full bandwidth allotment when served by higher bandwidth packages, which makes the statistical multiplexing more efficient.

CCTEC is providing its network diagram from a high-level view, as seen in Figure 3.



One advantage to the FTTP technology included in this network design is the ubiquity of service. Other technologies such as DSL or wireless internet experience a reduction in data throughput as the distance from the DSLAM or wireless base station increases. With these other technologies, there is a dramatic difference in the service and data throughput that a subscriber who is close to the base site will receive compared to a subscriber who is further away. With FTTP, all subscribers within a service area can receive the same data rates and the same grade of service. The limitation of the bandwidth available to the end user is essentially limited by the electronics that are used to “light” the fiber.

F) Not applicable as the proposed project only includes last mile FTTP infrastructure.

G) Upon notice of the grant award, CCTEC is ready to begin work immediately on the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. The timeframe for this project is contingent upon the notice of the grant award, but it is scheduled over the course of two years, starting in July 2022 and ending by July 2024. The proposed project schedule reflects the project being completed within the two-year project deadline. In devising this timeline, the key factor is taking advantage of the spring and summer months, which will allow for most of the construction work to be completed in a timely manner. In the event of delays due to weather or other factors, this project schedule has at least four months built into it before winter weather would hamper construction progress. This also applies to the ordering of electronics and other manufactured materials. Due to the recent pandemic, supplies for broadband projects are in high demand, which could cause some delays in manufacturing, shipping, and receiving the necessary materials. CCTEC has planned for any potential delays in electronics and equipment installation in the project schedule. CCTEC may also place fiber orders in advance to ensure orders are in queue with fiber manufacturers.

<b>Name of Applicant:</b> Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company		
<b>Name of Project:</b> Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan		
<b>Overall Timeline for Project:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b> <i>July 2022</i>	<b>Complete:</b> <i>July 2024</i>
<b>Individual Milestones for Project:</b> Include all planning, procurement, construction, installation, testing and customer turn-up activities	<b>Est. Start Date</b> (month/year)	<b>Est. Complete Date</b> (month/year)
OSP Field Data Collection	July 2022	Sept 2022
Environmental Review	July 2022	Aug 2022
Permits	Sept 2022	Dec 2022
OSP P&S Maps / Contract Package Prep	Sept 2022	Oct 2022
OSP Contract Package Review / Approval	Oct 2022	Oct 2022
Send Contract Package to Vendors	Oct 2022	Nov 2022
Review OSP Contract Responses / Award	Nov 2022	Nov 2022
Pre-Construction Meeting	March 2023	March 2023
Construction	March 2023	March 2024
Complete Construction	April 2024	April 2024
Order Electronics & Misc. Material	Dec 2022	Jan 2023
Electronics & Material Delivery	Jan 2023	Mar 2023
Misc. Material Install	Mar 2023	April 2023
Electronics Equipment Install	April 2023	April 2023
Equipment Turn Up / Test	April 2023	April 2023
Customer Installation	April 2024	July 2024
Final Customer Passing / Installed for Primary Construction Period	July 2024	July 2024
Broadband Development Activities Completion Date (Installation of Late Customer Sign Ups)	July 2024	July 2024

### 3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

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A) CCTEC intends to leverage as much existing infrastructure as possible to maintain an efficient network deployment. Specifically, CCTEC will utilize existing FTTP electronics equipment and fiber optic cable whenever possible to minimize the cost of deployment. CCTEC intends to fully own the new facilities set forth in this proposed project. The network design involves constructing new fiber to extend from the end of the existing fiber routes to the customer premises locations within the eligible unserved and underserved census blocks. CCTEC has also built into the overall project timeline a period of two months in which to conduct the RFP process. This will allow for ample time to garner as many vendor responses as possible. CCTEC will leverage its existing vendor relationships to receive cost-effective pricing for the FTTP electronics. Below are the primary expenditure categories that were accounted for when the FTTP estimate was assembled.

Contractual/consultant fees = \$2,021,000

Equipment (FTTP Electronics) = \$1,449,000

Supplies= \$0

Labor (Salary, Fringe, Contractor Furnished Material) = \$12,440,000

Permitting/licensing fees= \$0

Travel= \$0

Other= \$0

B) The proposed Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan grant request, if awarded, will not subsidize the operational expenses of CCTEC or the monthly bills of its' customers. CCTEC was awarded funding through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) for small portions of the proposed area. However, the RDOF funding awarded to CCTEC is minimal at \$54,000 per year, for 10 years. Per the guidelines for RDOF, CCTEC plans to utilize the RDOF funding to help offset some operational expenses. The proposed project has a total budget of \$15,910,000. This budget only includes capital expenditures related to the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan build. No operational expenses have been included within this budget.

C) The grant funds requested will be used for the sole purpose of constructing last mile fiber-to-the-premises broadband infrastructure in the unserved and underserved areas covered by this application. This will include cost for equipment and materials as specified in the budget breakdown. Additionally, this will include construction costs for permitting, engineering, installation and testing during the project performance period. If awarded, CCTEC hopes to accelerate their broadband deployment to the area.

### 3.2.4 Priority factors supporting the application

#### A) Matching funds.

CCTEC has adequate funds available for the matching funds portion of the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. CCTEC has included a resolution from its Board of Directors that authorizes the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan as well as the commitment of the cost share. This board resolution and meeting minutes are included later in this application.

#### B) Public-private partnerships.

CCTEC has received a letter of support from the Village of Benton with a commitment to waive any of the permitting fees for the use of utility right of ways. Gary McCrea, Village President of Village of Benton wrote the following in their letter of support:

*“As an underserved community with limited availability to advanced Internet services, the Village of Benton would like to express complete community support for the Broadband Expansion project. The Village of Benton would be committed to waive any of the permitting fees for the use of utility right of ways.”*

#### C) Existing broadband service.

When determining the project area for the proposed Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan, CCTEC targeted areas currently considered unserved and underserved on the Wisconsin broadband map. According to the FCC 477 map, the service providers listed in the following table serve portions of the grant area at the listed speeds and technologies.

Service Provider	Speeds Provided	Type of Technology	PFSA Estimated % Coverage
T-Mobile	25M/3M	Fixed Wireless	35%
HughesNet	25M/3M	Satellite	100%
ViaSat	35M/3M	Satellite	100%
Comelec Services	40M/15M	Fixed Wireless	90%
Charter	940M/35M	Cable	5%
MediaCom	1000M/50M	Cable	5%
Jo-Carroll Energy	2000M/200M, 4M/2M	Fiber, Fixed Wireless	5%
Lumen Technologies	15M/.75M,40M/3M, 80M/10M	DSL	50%
Hilbert Communications	12M/3M	Fixed Wireless	60%
Frontier	18M/1M	DSL	5%
Bug Tussel Wireless	8/2M, 12/3M, 25/5M	Fixed Wireless	60%



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The proposed project includes 8 unserved locations and 1,713 underserved locations. Based upon research completed by CCTEC, no locations are considered served within the grant serving area. Details regarding the research can be found in the supporting documentation later in the document.

Gary McCrea, Village President of the Village of Benton, stated in their letter of support, “As an underserved community with limited availability to advanced Internet services, the Village of Benton would like to express complete community support for the Broadband Expansion project.”. This demonstrates the community recognizes at an administrative level there is limited access to high-speed broadband service.

**D) Project impact.**

Given the current demand for advanced technologies and high-speed broadband, FTTP will empower the area by providing the opportunity to be proficient users of broadband technology. Education, health care, energy efficiency, and public safety will improve with high-speed Internet access provided by the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. Upon project completion, CCTEC will provide high-speed broadband services capable of up to 1 Gbps symmetrical speeds. CCTEC currently offers the residential packages listed in the table below. Additionally, CCTEC participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to aid low-income individuals. To qualify for ACP, customers must meet certain criteria established by each program. Qualifying customers receive a \$30 monthly discount.

Package	Monthly Rate
100 Mbps/10 Mbps	\$49
250 Mbps/25 Mbps	\$69
1 GB/100 Mbps	\$89

CCTEC has estimated that the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will pass by 1,721 locations at present. A take rate of 70% was determined based on current subscriber rates in the surrounding areas and research done by CCTEC. While this project is engineered to provide a drop at each location, we estimate that 1205 locations will also include electronics using the 70% take. The customer makeup of the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan is mostly rural households and farms, with 1,321 households, 280 farms, 117 businesses including 4 community anchor institutions. The rural nature of the project area means that there will be less of an impact created by tourist requesting broadband access. Due to a lack of recreational facilities and lakes attracting seasonal guests and a high number of rural locations, both residential households and farms, lessens the estimated number of seasonal residents in the project area. CCTEC estimates very few, if any, seasonal locations.

**E) Scalability.**

Scalability can be described as both an increase in bandwidth requirements from existing customer locations and an increase in the quantity of customer locations. Cuba City will design the proposed network to support 100 percent of the locations within the proposed funded service area. This includes the mainline fiber optic cable infrastructure, customer drops, the FTTP electronics, and the hut and cabinet facilities.

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The network that Cuba City intends to deploy to serve the locations within eligible census blocks is scalable in numerous ways. In order to provide for ever increasing application requirements and increasing quality demands, it is imperative that the broadband network is scalable from the perspective of the maximum supported data rates. With respect to the last mile portion of the network, the proposed GPON network deployment will enable Gigabit services to be offered to every location within the funded census blocks. This technology enables Cuba City to provision peak data speeds to individual users in increments of 1 Gbps or less. This results in Cuba City's ability to provide a wide variety of data rates up to 1 Gbps (including raw data and Ethernet overheads).

The fiber optic cable network for the last-mile infrastructure is designed to allow other future, next-gen FTTP technologies to be implemented. If Cuba City needs to increase the bandwidth to the customers in the project area, they could implement technologies such as XGS-PON or NG-PON2, without requiring a redesign of the fiber infrastructure. This provides a path to scale Internet services to up to 10 Gbps to customers. Cuba City will monitor the utilization of all links and when necessary, upgrade the 10 Gbps links to 100 Gbps links.

For the Cuba City proposed project, the proposed network design utilizes redundant 10 Gbps uplinks from the FTTP electronics to the core router. The redundant links used to uplink from the FTTP electronics to the core router will be configured in an active/active link aggregation configuration, meaning there will be 20 Gbps throughput available between the FTTP electronics and the core router electronics during normal operations.

As shown in the Network Diagram located within this document, the proposed project will leverage Cuba City's extensive network of existing infrastructure to provide high-speed Internet connectivity. The existing, redundant switches provide Cuba City with its redundant connectivity to its upstream Internet service providers. In accordance with its current network management practices, Cuba City will monitor the combined Internet usage of all subscriber traffic on the network to ensure sufficient uplink sizing to the Internet. As the total bandwidth usage at peak times approaches the purchased capacity, Cuba City will increase the purchased additional Internet capacity to mitigate the potential for network congestion.

Cuba City is a leader in the region when deploying FTTP equipment and offering superior services to its subscribers. With a strong history of deploying FTTP technologies, Cuba City will efficiently deploy state-of-the-art services over the broadband network once the construction is complete.

#### **F) Economic development.**

Communities that do not address slow and lacking broadband speeds have experienced difficulty attracting and maintaining economic growth, consistent declines in population as well as aging populations. Rural Voices for Prosperity : A Report of the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity, is a report of the results from the listening sessions held by the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity during 2020. The report states, "Commissioners clearly heard broadband is a baseline requirement for a prosperous rural Wisconsin." The report goes on to state, "Broadband is essential for the effective and cost-effective delivery of nearly every service essential for community and family livelihoods." This was also demonstrated by the following statement in the report from a Sauk County resident, "Broadband is no longer a luxury. It is a utility similar to electric in the 1930's.

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Use that same premise in an updated form. We are at that point.” Wisconsin rural communities need high speed broadband to participate in today’s global economy.

Robert A. Jones, Economic Development Director for the City of Cuba City, wrote in his letter of support for the project, “Cuba City Telephone Exchange has been a great partner to the City of Cuba City, Wisconsin. Their recent upgrade to fiber here has been a great asset to the City, it’s residents and business owners. Every building in Cuba City is now full. This includes residential, commercial and industrial. At the same time, the City’s population has increased by 2.5%. It is very likely that the fiber network provided by Cuba City Telephone Exchange has played a significant role in these highly positive developments at a time when most rural communities are losing both businesses and residents.”

According to the Brookings Metro Monitor 2017 Dashboard Data, “Communities with over 60 percent FTTH availability have 64 percent better localized GDP compared to communities with under 25 percent FTTH availability.” Availability of high-speed broadband also promotes employment growth. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the availability of broadband in communities has improved employment growth by approximately 6.4 percent.

Local businesses will have an immediate and direct impact with the enhanced broadband service provided by the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. Tim White with the Apple River State Bank provided the following statement demonstrating the need and usage of the service, “The importance and benefit to having broadband service is critical in our type of business. The benefit it serves to applications such as online video content, interactive applications on our website, or even day to day functions such as web browsing or email are critical to our financial institution.”

Steven McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer of Southwest Health, stated, “Southwest Health is the second largest employer in Grant County and to help meet our needs and the needs of our patients, our employees (and their families) must have access to high-speed broadband, not only for home use but for us to continue to meet our current and future employees’ expectations to be able to work from home.” This demonstrates the impact of access for the community now and into the unknown digital future.

In addition to improving economic and employment growth, access to the proposed FTTP network will also improve home values in the grant area. According to the article “Better Broadband Boosts Home Value” by M. Render, homes with access to Gigabit speed broadband services sell for approximately 7.1 percent more than homes with slower Internet connections. If more homes sell, the school district will grow as noted in the letter of support from John Costello, Superintendent of the Southwestern School district. John Costello wrote, “We are a public school district in Hazen Green, (Southwestern) that needs faster and more reliable broadband service for our students. Having this in our community will provide opportunities for our students, which are currently limited. It also has the ability to entice businesses to join our community that need a more robust broadband service which ultimately would provide job opportunities for our community and increase our enrollment.”

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Dr. Jennifer Rediske Anderson with the Veterinary Associates in Hazel Green’s letter of support stated, “With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City’s expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard.” This is a great example of how the community feels the broadband will benefit their region.

The Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will promote rural economic development by providing access to broadband to 100 percent of the households and businesses within the grant funded area. This proposed fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) project will provide broadband data speeds at a variety of advertised data rates, with the capability of attaining speeds of 1 Gbps or more to every location. CCTEC believes that sustainable broadband adoption will transform these unserved areas into highly-productive rural communities. Given the current demand for advanced technologies and high-speed broadband, FTTP will empower the area by providing the opportunity to be proficient users of broadband technology. This use and development of broadband will provide various home-based business options, stimulate economic growth, and stimulate innovation and investment. Education, health care, energy efficiency, and public safety will improve with high-speed Internet access.

**G) Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas.**

The proposed project will not impair the ability of a broadband service provider or competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area.

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**3.2.5 Other information supporting the application**

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A) Incorporated in 1913, Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company (CCTEC) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Lynch Telephone Corporation III. Lynch Telephone Corporation III is 100% owned by Lynch North, L.L.C., which is a 100% owned subsidiary of Brighton Communications Corporation. Brighton Communications Corporation is 100% owned by the LICT Corporation, the overall holding company. CCTEC provides broadband services throughout Wisconsin and focuses on providing the best technology possible to its customers. CCTEC currently serves approximately 2,400 broadband subscribers in the communities of Cuba City and LaGrant.

CCTEC’s key management personnel offers a remarkable depth of experience to the proposed Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. Combined, the team brings extensive telecom/broadband industry experience to the table. The senior management team of CCTEC includes CEO/General Manager Donn Wilmott, CFO Kent Dau, Marketing Manager Bruce Duling, Central Office Engineer Chris Garrison, Director of Sales/Account Manager Jim Neyen, and Operations Director Brent Lindle. This level of knowledge ensures the success of the proposed Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. CEO Donn Wilmont oversees operations of all Wisconsin and Iowa subsidiaries of parent company, LICT Corporation.

CCTEC has successfully completed the installation of their FTTP network within their Cuba City exchange. CCTEC’s goal is to extend broadband service to the unserved rural communities surrounding their ILEC territory.

B) The proposed project includes 8 unserved locations and 1,713 underserved locations.

C) Incorporated in 1913, CCTEC has over 100 years of experience serving their subscribers in southwestern Wisconsin. CCTEC is a financially viable corporation with extensive experience in deploying fiber-to-the-premises network infrastructure. Furthermore, CCTEC is led by an experienced team of individuals as stated in 3.2.5A. CCTEC has provided a board resolution in support of the proposed project and as evidence of its commitment to provide matching funds of \$7,955,000.

D) This is not applicable as the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan is a last mile project.

E) This is not applicable as the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan is a last mile project.

F) All residents within the proposed project area will have the ability to participate in telemedicine, allowing them to consult with their physicians without leaving their homes. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many health systems are turning to telehealth as a key service. Virtual visits allow doctors to see and treat patients for common ailments without unnecessarily risking exposure to COVID-19 to the patient or the health care workers.

The proposed Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will also benefit residents of Grant and Lafayette Counties who are living with disabilities and/or aging. With the broadband services provided by the proposed project, these residents will be able to maximize their independence. Access to quality broadband services will enable these individuals to utilize home monitoring services and telemedicine, allowing them to remain in their homes and to maintain their independence as well as avoiding the steep price tag associated with institutionalized living.

Steven McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer with Southwest Health stated, “We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our patients in the area to assist with their healthcare needs and education. As a hospital, we communicate with our patients extensively through the internet, not only for scheduling and general communication, but for comprehensive education through videos and telehealth visits.” This demonstrates how the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will support health care in the region.

G) The Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will open doors to a number of educational opportunities for all within the project area. Virtual learning is important in education today and access to state-of-the-art broadband services will enable access to almost endless education opportunities. The use of computer-based platforms loaded with innovative courses, educational games, and student progress reports are widespread amongst all levels of education.

Additionally, remote learning has become increasingly important since the COVID-19 pandemic. The high-speed Internet services provided by the proposed project will allow students and educators to communicate both effectively and efficiently. Without access to broadband services at home, students face a significant disadvantage and risk falling behind in their studies.

The Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan is receiving significant support from the local community. The two school districts wrote letters of support commending Cuba City Telephone excellent service and community support. The



letters also included a description of the project need and the direct impact the project will have on the schools and surrounding community. The letters can be found later in this document.

Southwestern Wisconsin Community School District, a public school district with 540 enrolled students in Hazel Green, supports the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. John Costello, Superintendent of Southwestern School District wrote, "Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area."

The School District of Benton, with 215 students enrolled, also supports the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. Todd Bastian, Superintendent, stated, "Although the School District of Benton has adequate Internet, many students in our district lack access to reliable and affordable Internet. This grant could bridge the gap for many of those students and other members of our community." He went on to write, "Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the School District of Benton."

When combined, the above-mentioned school district support includes 750 students. The impact of the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan will be significant when we consider the educators, support staff and families who will also benefit from the project.

H) Lafayette County is certified as both a Broadband Forward! and a Telecommuter Forward! Community. CCTEC has received a letter of support from the Village of Benton with a commitment to waive any of the permitting fees in support of the project.

I) According to the Open Vault Broadband Insights Report (OVBI 4Q21), the average number of streaming devices per household is 9. To be successful streaming this number of devices, a high-speed fiber connection is critical. The local community recognizes this requirement. CCTEC has received community support from village residents, businesses, anchor institutions, local government entities, and the rural residents. Below are some of the statements from the letters of support.

Robert A. Jones, Economic Development Director for the City of Cuba City wrote a letter of support for the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan, stating, "I would like to express my full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. Their broadband plan for portions of rural Grant and Lafayette counties would address the serious lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area."

Traci Wallenhorst stated in her letter of support, "As a resident of rural Benton, Wisconsin we would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City. Later in the letter Traci went on to state, "We strongly urge the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to fund this Wisconsin Broadband

Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Cuba City's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community."

Mr and Mrs Patrick Johll from Hazel Green wrote, "Cuba City has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Cuba City's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Hazel Green."

Jean Ann Syolb, a rural resident of Benton Wisconsin wrote in her letter, "I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). As a resident of Benton, Wisconsin, we would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City."

Erin Farrey, a resident of Benton, stated, "With the assistance from the broadband grant, Cuba City will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design."

The Apple River State Bank supports the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan. Tim White wrote, "We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our bank. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard."

J) CCTEC supports the communities CCTEC serves in a variety of ways with their broadband services to anchor institutions. CCTEC supported local communities during COVID-19 by providing hot spots at various community anchor institutions such as libraries and churches to increase broadband access.

CCTEC supports the youth in the community by participating in the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association scholarship program to promote on-going education. CCTEC also provides the equipment to support WI-FI in community gathering spaces. Robert Jones, Economic Development Director for the City of Cuba City wrote the following in his letter of support, "Recently, Cuba City gathered input from the residents and high school students as to the design of a presidential Plaza on Main Street. The students were quite vocal in the desire for a WI-FI hotspot as part of the community gathering spot. This amenity was donated to the project by Cuba City Telephone Exchange and was a key element in this multiple award-winning development."

CCTEC also hosts a local community billboard with a local celebrity of sorts named "Giga-boy". It is well received in the community with updates being requested.

**CUBA CITY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE COMPANY  
WISCONSIN BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT 2022  
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has appropriated funds to establish a Broadband Expansion Grant Program for awards to eligible entities to develop and expand broadband services to unserved and underserved areas and improve access to broadband;

WHEREAS, Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company interprets the criteria for eligibility the Broadband Expansion Grant Program funds to be applicable to the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan proposed funded service area (PFSA);

WHEREAS, Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company remains committed to expanding broadband services to unserved areas near its existing broadband service areas;

WHEREAS, Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company has the financial resources to meet any matching equity requirements of the Broadband Expansion Grant Program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company commits its resources to submit an application to the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan for grant funds to improve broadband services for the Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan at the approximate costs of:


Construct Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) for the Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company

Total Project Budget	\$15,910,000
NextLevel Grant	\$7,955,000
Equity Contribution	\$7,955,000

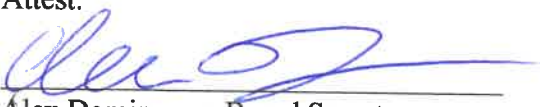
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company commits to substantially completing said project within 2 years of any award and acceptance of Cuba City Telephone Expansion Plan grant funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company will commit 50% of the project budget from its own resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company will refrain from receiving duplicate funds or any such funds.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen J. Moore, Board President

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alex Dominguez, Board Secretary

## CERTIFICATE

I, Alex Dominguez, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company; that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the members of the Board of Directors at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said company held the 4th day of March, 2022 at which meeting a quorum of the Board of Directors were present; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or modified.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand this 4th day of March, 2022.



Alex Dominguez, Board Secretary

# VILLAGE OF BENTON

244 RIDGE AVENUE, BENTON WI 53803 | PH (608) 759-3721 | FAX (608) 759-3212

March 9, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City, WI). As an underserved community with limited availability to advanced Internet services, the Village of Benton would like to express complete community support for the Broadband Expansion project. The Village of Benton would be committed to waive any of the permitting fees for the use of utility right-of-ways.

Sincerely,



**Gary McCrea**  
Village President  
Village of Benton



### Service Availability Verification

Call to: Century Link at 1-855-524-0749

Date: March 1, 2022

Time: 1:23 PM

Duration: 16 Min. 43 sec.

Purpose of call: Determine Century Link availability

CCTEC completed an availability check with the Century Link service center. The purpose of the call was to check availability of Broadband service in the Wisconsin Villages of Hazel Green (53811) and Benton (53803).

During the call that lasted 16 minutes and 43 seconds CCTEC requested service validation at 4 address, 2 each in the Villages Benton and Hazel Green. Two locations had 80 Mbps service available and two of the location had no Broadband available. The results are as follows:

244 Ridge Ave., Benton WI 53803 - No Broadband available

46 E Main St., Benton WI 53803 - 80 Mbps quoted

610 Fairplay St., Hazel Green WI 53811 – 80 Mbps quoted

662 Louisburg Rd., Hazel Green WI 53811 – No broadband available

While it appears that Century Link is offering 80Mbps service in some areas, that level of service in reality is both suspect and not available census block wide. VDSL2 as a technology makes 50/5 Mbps available but limited to 3,200 feet or less from the CO or Fiber remote. The distance limitation drops off significantly from the 3,200 feet reach to well under 2,000 feet to obtain these speeds. Century Link simply does not have the VDSL2 investment in these Villages to provide service at the complete census block levels claimed, similar with many of their rural 25 Mbps claims.



March 8, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I would like to express my full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. Their broadband plan for portions of rural Grant and Lafayette counties would address the serious lack of adequate broadband Internet access and connectivity in the area. Due to Cuba City Telephone's long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at modern speeds to other rural communities and their strong reputation for customer service and community commitment, I am confident in their capability to enhance broadband service for the residents of rural Benton and Hazel Green, Wisconsin.

As an underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural southwestern Wisconsin are faced with many challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver. Remote workers are also severely limited by this lack of connectivity.

With funding assistance from the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant program, Cuba City Telephone's proposed expansion will enable these residents to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that this project will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

Cuba City Telephone Exchange has been a great partner to the City of Cuba City, Wisconsin. Their recent upgrade to fiber here has been a great asset to the City, its residents and business owners.

Every building in Cuba City is now full. This includes residential, commercial, and industrial. At the same time, the City's population has increased by 2.5%. It is very likely that the fiber network provided by Cuba City Telephone Exchange has played a significant role in these highly positive developments at a time when most rural communities are losing both businesses and residents.

Recently, Cuba City gathered input from the residents and high school students as to the design of a Presidential Plaza on Main Street. The students were quite vocal in the desire for a Wi Fi hotspot as part of the community gathering spot. This amenity was donated to the project by Cuba City Telephone exchange as was a key element in this multiple-award winning development.

I respectfully ask you to consider Cuba City Telephone's proposal for their fiber project in rural southwest Wisconsin. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Jones', written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Jones  
Economic Development Director  
City of Cuba City, Wisconsin  
608-744-2152



March 3, 2022

#### ADMINISTRATION

John B. Costello  
District Administrator

Cynthia A. Lacey  
MS/HS Principal

Angela L. Barth  
Elementary Principal  
Special Ed. Director

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jodi R. Fritz  
President

Jackie Birkett  
Vice President

Lawrence Grant  
Clerk

Brian Splinter  
Treasurer

Steven G. Hoppman  
Storey Dreessens  
Anne M. Redfearn

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

4822 Madison Yards Way

PO Box 7854

Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). We would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin broadband grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our school district. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.



P.O. Box 368  
Hazel Green, Wisconsin 53811  
Phone (608) 854-2261  
Fax (608) 854-2305  
<https://www.swsd.k12.wi.us>

#### ADMINISTRATION

John B. Costello  
District Administrator

Cynthia A. Lacey  
MS/HS Principal

Angela L. Barth  
Elementary Principal  
Special Ed. Director

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Brian Splinter  
Treasurer

Steven G. Hoppman  
Storey Dreessens  
Anne M. Redfearn

We are a public school district in Hazel Green, (Southwestern) that needs faster and more reliable broadband service for our students. Having this in our community will provide opportunities for our students, which are currently limited. It also has the ability to entice businesses to join our community that need a more robust broadband service, which ultimately would provide job opportunities for our community and increase our enrollment.

Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our community in Hazel Green.

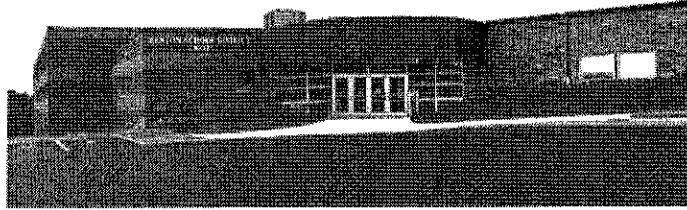
Sincerely,

John Costello  
Superintendent Southwestern School District  
1105 Maple Street, PO Box 368  
Hazel Green, WI 53811  
608-854-2261

# School District of Benton

## Benton School Board

Angela Davis, President  
Ryan Kern, Vice-President  
Brandi Miller, Clerk  
Bob Knight, Treasurer  
Brian Korleski, Director  
Amanda Williams, Director  
Paul Klang, Director



Todd Bastian, District Administrator  
Lisa Lawrence, Principal

41 Alma Street, PO Box 7  
Benton, WI 53803  
Phone (608)759-4002  
Fax (608)759-3805  
[www.benton.k12.wi.us](http://www.benton.k12.wi.us)

March 3, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854 RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). We would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin broadband grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our school district. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Although the School District of Benton has adequate internet, many students in our district lack access to reliable and affordable internet. This grant could bridge the gap for many of those student and other members of our community.

Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the School District of Benton.

Sincerely,

Todd Bastian  
Superintendent  
School District of Benton  
41 Alma Street  
Benton, WI 53803  
608-759-4002





March 7, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854 RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). We would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin broadband grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our patients in the area to assist with their healthcare needs and education. As a hospital, we communicate with our patients extensively through the internet, not only for scheduling and general communication, but for comprehensive education through videos and telehealth visits. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities.

Southwest Health is the second largest employer in Grant County and to help meet our needs and the needs of our patients, our employees (and their families) must have access to high speed broadband, not only for home use but for us to continue to meet our current and future employees' expectations to be able to work for home. Healthcare is a very competitive market and to be able to compete for top talent, our communities must have access to high speed broadband.

Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Southwest Health's patients and employees.

Sincerely,

Steven McCarthy  
Chief Operating Officer  
Southwest Health  
1400 Eastside Road  
Platteville, WI 53818

*With us, it's always personal*



# Veterinary Associates

## Hazel Green – Galena, S.C.

J.J. Rediske, D.V.M.  
K.M. Schneider, D.V.M.  
W.D. Schuler, D.V.M.  
R.M. Ruegsegger, D.V.M.  
3215 Percival St.  
Hazel Green, WI 53811  
608-854-2283



C.E. Schafer, D.V.M.  
C.M. Moris, D.V.M.  
L.M. Kelly, D.V.M.  
M.K. Neiley, D.V.M.  
1241 N. Franklin St.  
Galena, IL 61036  
815-777-0880

[www.vetassociateshazलगreen.com](http://www.vetassociateshazलगreen.com)

March 8, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). We would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin broadband grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our Veterinary Clinic. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Veterinary Associates.

Sincerely,



3215 N Percival  
Hazel Green, WI 53811  
608-854-2283



March 3, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

4822 Madison Yards Way

PO Box 7854

Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). We would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin broadband grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our bank. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

The importance and benefit to having broadband service is critical in our type of business. The benefit it serves to applications such as online video content, interactive applications on our website, or even day to day functions such as web browsing or e-mail are critical to our financial institution.

Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community

commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our financial institution.

Sincerely,

Tim White, Apple River State Bank  
3525 N Percival St  
Hazel Green, WI 53811  
608-854-2060



**Local Bankers... Making Local Decisions... Meeting Local Needs**

<b>Apple River, IL</b> 103 N. Main (815) 594-2351	<b>Scales Mound, IL</b> 510 N. Main (815) 845-2900	<b>Warren, IL</b> 135 E. Main (815) 745-2194	<b>Elizabeth, IL</b> 112 N. Main (815) 858-2225	<b>Hanover, IL</b> 215 Jefferson St. (815) 591-2201	<b>Hazel Green, WI</b> 3525 Percival St. (608) 854-2090	<b>Galena, IL – First Community Bank</b> 101 Exchange St. (815) 777-6300
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**AppleRiverStateBank.com**

Member FDIC • Equal Housing Lender



195 Highway 11  
PO Box 188  
Shullsburg, WI 53586  
(608) 965-3600  
(608) 965-3405 Fax



42 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 27  
Benton, WI 53803  
(608) 759-3600  
(608) 759-5601 Fax



338 Highway 61  
P.O. Box 192  
Potosi, WI 53820  
(608) 763-3600  
(608) 763-3602 Fax

March 16, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854 RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). We would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin broadband grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our Financial Institution. With the assistance of this grant, Cuba City's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Two of the biggest advantages of having another fiber connection would be redundancy and reliability. Currently, if there is a fiber cut from our provider between Benton and Chicago, we lose connectivity until the connection is fixed. The other issue with the current ISPs is with reliability. As a bank, if we lose connectivity, our customers are not able to access their financial information or call our locations because we utilize VOIP.

Cuba City has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for Benton State Bank.

Sincerely,

Scott Freiburger, Executive Vice President  
Benton State Bank  
42 W Main St. — PO Box 27  
Benton, WI 53803  
608-759-3600

3/3/2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). As a resident of Hazel Green, Wisconsin, we would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Wisconsin. Cuba City has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Cuba City's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Hazel Green.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Cuba City. will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provision for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to fund this Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Cuba City's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

*Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Jell*

*1615 16th St.*

*Hazel Green, WI 53811*

March 3, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). As a resident of rural Benton, Wisconsin, we would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Wisconsin. Cuba City has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Cuba City's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in rural Benton.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Cuba City. will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provision for much needed broadband service to our area.

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Sincerely,

Traci Wallenhost  
29482 Wilkinson Rd  
Cuba City, WI 53807

March 3, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). As a resident of Benton, Wisconsin, we would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Wisconsin. Cuba City has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Cuba City's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Benton.

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Sincerely,

*Erin Farrey*  
*196 W. Main*  
*Benton, WI 53803*



March 4, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant


Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. (Cuba City). As a resident of Hazel Green, Wisconsin, we would like to express our full support of the Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application for Cuba City. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Wisconsin. Cuba City has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in Cuba City's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Hazel Green.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, Cuba City. will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provision for much needed broadband service to our area.

We strongly urge the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to fund this Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Cuba City's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

  
2605 Chicago St  
Hazel Green, WI 53811

## Donn Wilmott

205 Fairway Circle, Eldridge, IA 52748

Home Phone 563-285-8585

Cell 563-499-5717

E-mail: [donn.wilmott@yahoo.com](mailto:donn.wilmott@yahoo.com)

### Career Objective

Primary role will focus on allowing the listed qualifications and an entrepreneurial spirit to benefit a success driven customer facing organization in an atmosphere conducive to challenge; where there is no one right way but many through individual contributions.

### Summary of Qualifications

- **General Management**, finance, operations, technical, sales and marketing.
- **Community representation**, public speaking, written, and oral communications.
- **Financial** and **Strategic** business acumen.
- **Capital Budgeting** with full **P&L responsibility** and reporting.
- **Product development**, positioning, **pricing**, and new product launch
- **Contract Management**, Customer and vendor **negotiations**,
- **M&A** due diligence
- HR, Public Relations, Disaster Recovery Planning.
- Engineering, technical field services, OSP, support, and **Customer Care**.
- Lobby activities, public hearings, regulatory filing and compliance.

### Professional Experience

**Central Scott Telephone / CS Technologies** – Quad Cities, IA 2/10 – Present  
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager

<b>Alaska Communications Systems</b> – Anchorage, AK	9/08 – 4/09
<b>San Diego Diocese</b> - San Diego, CA	08/06 – 08/08
<b>Time Warner Telecom</b> - San Diego, CA	09/94 - 6/06
<b>LDDS / METROMEDIA / ITT</b> – San Diego, CA	08/88 – 09/94
<b>Allnet Communications</b> - San Diego, CA	06/87 – 08/88
<b>Starnet / American Network</b> - San Diego, CA	05/85 – 06/87
<b>National Telephone Exchange / Budgetel</b>	03/83 – 05/85
<b>Paul Walton, INC</b> - San Diego, CA	06/82 -03/83

**Education**

**San Diego State University** - San Diego, CA 09/78 – 05/82  
Graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Arts and Sciences; major in Business Administration, Finance with a **Distinction in Finance and a minor in Sociology**.

**San Diego State University College of Extended Studies** - San Diego, CA  
Professional Certificate Program in Telecommunications was completed.

## **KENT A. DAU, CPA**

514 W. Main Street  
Long Grove, IA 52756  
(563) 285-8687

### **Summary of Qualifications**

Seasoned financial executive with several years of strategic planning  
Diverse experiences within the telecommunications field, including competitive threats  
Related experience with regulatory filings of FCC, USAC, and the State of Iowa

### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

#### **Central Scott Telephone Company, CFO/Comptroller, February 1998 to Present.**

Responsible for all tax and accounting functions for the company and subsidiaries. Preparation and review all monthly, quarterly and annual consolidated financial statements. Responsible for the annual audit process, preparation of financial statements and coordination with outside auditors. I am responsible for the annual financial budgeting process. Responsible for the filing of all tax forms including sales tax, use tax, payroll taxes, and excise taxes for three companies. I also comply with all regulatory filings for the Company and subsidiaries. I work with other members of the management team on new service offerings' business plans and projections.

I manage the day to day activities of four Customer Service Representatives, an assistant Controller and the office Manager

I served on the Technologies Task Force of the Iowa Society of CPAs. I served on the Industry Relations Committee of the Iowa Telecommunications Association.

#### **Wapsi Wireless, LLC, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors, April 1999 to April 2015**

I served as the Secretary/Treasurer on the Board of Directors of Wapsi Wireless LLC, a PCS carrier in Clinton and Jackson Counties in Iowa. I was the Secretary/Treasurer from the company's inception until it's dissolution by sale to another entity.

#### **Iowa Network Services, Manager of Taxes and Audits, April 1992 to February 1998.**

My duties included all tax responsibilities, such as the preparation of Federal and Multi-State Consolidated Income Tax returns, and estimated tax payments. I created the tax accrual program that I used for the monthly tax accrual. I prepared payroll tax payments and returns. I was responsible for the maintenance of property tax records for over 30 counties. I prepared sales tax returns and Federal excise tax returns. I also determined the tax effect of miscellaneous transactions.

Monthly general ledger work included maintenance of financial statements, maintenance of general ledger accounts and preparation of journal entries. I was responsible for the preparation and review of monthly financial statements. I was the liaison with external financial auditors and prepared the consolidated financial statements for the audit. Some of my other duties included the processing of payroll, and determination of taxable benefits.

I served on the Technologies Task Force of the Iowa Society of CPAs.

#### **Kiesling Associates, Senior Accountant, July 1989 to April 1992.**

#### **Kiesling Associates, Staff Accountant, September 1987 to July 1989.**

My duties included assisting in all areas of audit, review and compilation services from the planning of the engagement to the issuance of the report. I was promoted to Senior Accountant and given in-charge responsibilities, including supervision of staff and completion of work papers. I also obtained experience in financial statement presentation, corporate tax return preparation for non-profit and C corporations, as well as monthly general ledger work for clients and prescribed form reports.

March 3, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
PO Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854


RE: Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant

Dear Public Service Commission of Wisconsin:

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We strongly urge the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to fund this Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in Cuba City's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,   
4722 Co Rd J  
Benton, WI 53803

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
CUBA CITY TELEPHONE EXCHANGE COMPANY**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Cuba City Telephone Exchange Company (the "Corporation") was held telephonically commencing at 4:00 pm EST on March 4, 2022. Present were Stephen J. Moore, Chairman, Donn Wilmott and Alex Dominguez, comprising a quorum of the Board. Also present by invitation was Thomas J. Hearity, outside counsel.

Mr. Moore called the meeting to order and Mr. Hearity kept the minutes.

The Board discussed the Corporation's application for grant funds from the State of Wisconsin to support the expansion of the Corporation's broadband communications facilities. After discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Corporation hereby adopts the Resolution attached to these minutes, in support of its application for such funds, and the Chairman and the Secretary of the Corporation are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute such Resolution.


The Board then considered the appointment of persons to serve as officers of the Corporation. After discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED, that Kent Dau is hereby appointed to serve as Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Corporation; and it is further

RESOLVED, that Alex Dominguez is hereby appointed to serve as Vice President, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer of the Corporation; and it is further

RESOLVED, that each such person shall serve in such office until his successor is duly appointed or until his earlier resignation or removal.

The business of the meeting having thus been concluded, it was thereupon  
ADJOURNED, at 4:20 pm EST.

  
Thomas J. Hearity  
Acting as Secretary for the meeting